

AMD17-052 4/11/08

Bell, Leanne S (DOT)

From: Steven Parker [parkerinbhutan@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2008 11:21 AM
To: DOT STIP; Palin, Sarah H (GOV); david.c.miller@fhwa.dot.gov; parkerinbhutan@yahoo.com
Subject: Juneau Access Road

Dear Division of Program Development,

I am writing in opposition to further work being done on the planning and execution of the Juneau Access Road. Those of us who have spent time cruising and kayaking Lynn Canal know first hand how difficult it would be to build and maintain a road up Lynn Canal. I do not for a moment believe the current cost estimates. The true costs of this road will be much greater than anyone has stated both in dollars and impact on the environment.

Our State and Federal highway dollars are much better spent maintaining and improving our current roads than building this expensive and controversial road. The opposition to this road runs deep in all of the affected communities. Many of those pushing for the road are business leaders who have something to gain from construction of the road.

As a Physician my other concern is for public safety.

During the winter avalanche season I am concerned that our Emergency Medical Services personnel will be unable to respond to accidents far from Juneau.

Avalanches may close the road and prevent EMS from responding to accidents or from getting victims to a hospital. And if our EMS personnel must respond to accidents way out the road they will be unable to respond when needed in Juneau. Will there be money to hire and equip additional EMS personnel?

There are many reasons this road is ill-advised (financial, environmental and public safety are a few). There is no overwhelming mandate to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on this project. Our money can be better used elsewhere. Please focus your energies on projects we really need instead of this controversial and unnecessary project.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Steve Parker MD

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